

Welcome to Medicare



FACT SHEET FOR PHYSICIANS

PREVENTIVE VISIT

Talk to your patients about the “Welcome to Medicare” preventive visit today. It helps you and your patients, who have recently enrolled in Medicare, plan for their healthy future.

“WELCOME TO MEDICARE” PREVENTIVE VISIT OVERVIEW

The “Welcome to Medicare” preventive visit provides you with an accurate benchmark of a patient’s overall health. This visit is available to your patients with Medicare during their first 12 months of Part B enrollment. You’ll be reviewing medical and family history, assessing current health conditions and prescriptions, and offering preventive measures to establish a baseline for future, personalized preventive care. Further, the visit is now free to your patients with Medicare, if their physician accepts assignment. Patients with Medicare Advantage Plans should check with their insurance providers to find out if there are costs associated with the visit. The waiver of the co-pay or deductible may be particularly helpful to those patients who have not previously been able to afford the “Welcome to Medicare” preventive visit.

BENEFITS OF THE “WELCOME TO MEDICARE” PREVENTIVE VISIT

- The “Welcome to Medicare” preventive visit is an opportunity to discuss with your patient short- and long-term steps to prevent disease, improve his or her health and stay well.
- It helps you get a current patient up-to-date on preventive measures that he or she may have been putting off or unable to afford.
- It’s a great way to record medical and family history and discuss preventive measures.
- During the visit, you can also talk with your patient about their other Medicare benefits.

ELEMENTS OF THE “WELCOME TO MEDICARE” PREVENTIVE VISIT

During the visit, you and your staff will:

- Record and evaluate your patient’s medical and family history, current health conditions and prescriptions;
- Check blood pressure, visual acuity, weight, height and body mass index;
- Make sure your patient is up-to-date with preventive services;
- Provide referrals for further preventive measures, depending on the patient’s general health and medical history; and
- Provide a written plan or checklist outlining additional preventive services – such as cancer screenings, flu shots, certain vaccines and diabetes tests.

For additional information about the “Welcome to Medicare” preventive visit, go to <http://www.cms.gov/WelcometoMedicareExam> or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY Users should call 1-877-486-2048.

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INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

Instruct enrollees to bring the following to their “Welcome to Medicare” preventive visit:

- Medical records, including immunization records
- Family health history – encourage new enrollees to learn as much as they can about their family’s health history prior to the appointment
- A list of prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications that they currently take, how often they take them and why

INFORMATION ABOUT PROPER BILLING AND CODING FOR THE “WELCOME TO MEDICARE” PREVENTIVE VISIT:

For more information about proper billing and coding, please refer to the Medicare Learning Network Article, which is available at <http://www.cms.gov/MLNMMattersArticles/downloads/MM6223.pdf>.

